



DMR Ventless Lobster Trap Study

Collaborative Fisheries Research

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Study Goal

The American lobster stock was recently evaluated through a stock assessment. One of the strongest recommendations of the assessment was the need for more data, particularly for juvenile lobster. The Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) is therefore conducting a collaborative Ventless Lobster Trap Study from June to August this year to address this need.

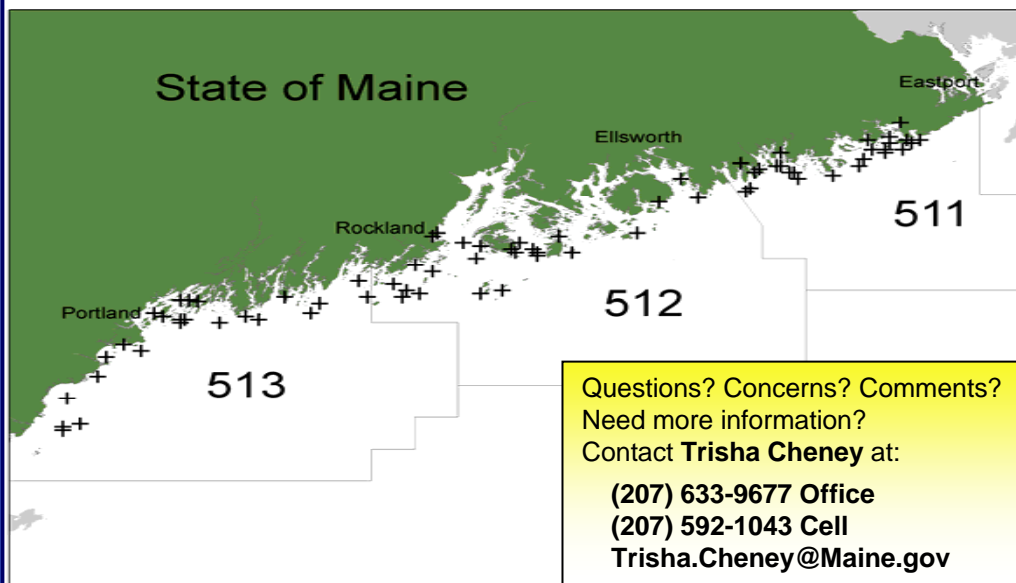
Project Objectives

- 1) Characterize abundance & size-distribution.
- 2) Develop a pilot project for a coastwide fishery dependent monitoring program.
- 3) Document the relative importance of depth to abundance & distribution.
- 4) Conduct collaborative research between the fishing industry and DMR scientists.
- 5) Improve industry participation in the lobster stock assessment process.

Study Design

Sampling in Maine is divided into 3 NMFS statistical areas. Each area will be sampled using 75 vented & 75 ventless traps fished by lobstermen chosen by competitive bid under contract to DMR. The random distribution of the traps within each area is based on water depth (0 to 15m, 16 to 30m and >30m). All experimental gear will have bright orange poly buoys marked with DMR contact information. This is a fishery independent study and DMR staff will be onboard all trips to measure all lobsters.

All lobsters will be replaced in the same area as collected.



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